

joining said first section of coreless optical fiber to said second section of coreless optical fiber; and

forming said first and second sections of coreless optical fiber into a prism.

39. (Previously added) The apparatus of claim 38 further comprising the steps of:
placing one of said first subassembly and said second subassembly into said first channel;
placing the other of said first subassembly and said second subassembly onto said substrate
in predetermined alignment with one of said first subassembly and said second subassembly.

40. (Previously added) The apparatus of claim 38 further comprising the steps of:
placing said first and second collimators in side-by-side abutment; and
filling the valleys thus formed with an adhesive having a refractive index matched to the
refractive index of said first and second collimators.

41. (New) The method of claim 10 wherein said substrate comprises at least one groove and
wherein the step of placing said first collimator onto said substrate comprises placing said first
collimator into said groove.

42. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein both of said first collimator and said second
collimator are received in said groove.

43. (New) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said substrate further comprises a second
groove, wherein the other of said first collimator and said second collimator are received in said
second groove.

44. (New) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said index-matched material comprises a sol-gel.

45. (New) The method of claim 9 wherein said index matched adhesive comprises a sol-gel.